

REMARKS

Summary of the Office Action

The specification is objected to because of informalities.

Claims 1-2, 4-29 and 32 remain rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Miyashita (US 6,011,602).

Claim 30 has been indicated as containing allowable subject matter.

Summary of the Response to the Office Action

The specification has been amended as requested by the Examiner. Each of independent claims 1, 27 and 28 has been amended by incorporating the allowable features of claim 30 into each of them. Claims 29 and 30 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. The other claims have been amended to improve their form. Moreover, new claims 33-36 have been added as being dependent from independent claims 27 and 28, respectively. No new matter has been added by this Amendment. Accordingly, claims 1-2, 4-28, and 31-36 are pending in this application for further consideration.

Objection to the Specification

The disclosure is objected to because of informalities. Applicants have amended the specification in view of the Examiner's comments set forth in the Office Action. That is, all of figures (FIG. 1 through FIG. 25) have been explained in the section of "Brief Description of the Drawing." Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the objection to the specification be withdrawn.

All Claims Define Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-2, 4-29 and 32 remain rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Miyashita (US 6,011,602). The rejection is respectfully traversed for at least the following reasons.

Applicants have canceled claims 29 and 30 without prejudice or disclaimer, and amended each of independent claims 1, 27 and 28 by incorporating the allowable features of claim 30 into each of them. Also, claims 2 and 4-26, which are dependent upon claim 1, have been amended to improve their form. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of claims 1-2 and 4-28 become moot. Withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is thus respectfully requested.

New Claims 33-36

Applicants have added new claims 33-36 to be dependent upon independent claims 27 and 28, respectively. Applicants respectfully submit that new claims 33-36 are allowable over the prior art of record based on the reasons set forth above.

With no other rejection pending, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-2, 4-28 and 31-36 are in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request entry of the amendments to place the application in clear condition for allowance or, in the alternative, in better form for appeal. Should the Examiner feel that there are any issues outstanding after consideration of the response, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicants' undersigned representative to expedite prosecution.

If there are any other fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-0310. If a fee is required for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 not accounted for above, such an extension is requested and the fee should also be charged to our Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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